

TRIBUTE FOR RILEY KING

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Riley King of Durango, Colorado, for his efforts in co-founding Unite Our World, a non-profit charity that provides medical assistance and builds schools for impoverished children abroad.

Mr. King and his friend Matt Peters have always been entrepreneurial and focused on community involvement. Following their high school graduations, both men started a series of seasonal businesses to pay for their travel expenses abroad. In 2009, Riley King and Matt Peters founded Unite Our World after Mr. King visited a school in Uganda. These young men are intensely focused on giving back to their community. Acknowledging his own birth into privilege, Mr. King admits with pride that he has an obligation to serve those who have less.

Unite Our World's core mission is to advocate and provide assistance for children who do not have sufficient educational resources within their own countries. Recently, the organization expanded its mission and involved itself in the battle against the AIDS epidemic in Uganda. Mr. King currently serves as president of the non-profit company.

Mr. Speaker, America is lucky to have committed citizens such as Mr. King and Mr. Peters. I am proud to commend both these young men for their leadership and contribution to our world community.

REMEMBERING LOUISE HILMA BALLERSTEDT RAGGIO

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a civil rights champion and dear friend, Ms. Louise Hilma Ballerstedt Raggio. Ms. Raggio made an enormous impact for women throughout Texas, and she will be greatly missed.

Louise Raggio was a true Texan. Born in Austin, Texas, Ms. Raggio spent her life as a leader who would not allow bias to prevail. Louise Raggio never backed down from correcting an injustice. She did not accept there was a glass ceiling, and led the way for millions of Texas women. Her intellect and moral compass took her on a path that would break barriers and advance the rights of women.

Louise Raggio is perhaps best known for her work on the Marital Property Act of 1967. Prior to this act it was assumed a woman was property of her husband, and hence could not buy or sell her own property, perform bank transactions or sign contracts without her husband's approval. If adhered to, this meant that a company could not hire a woman without her husband's consent. Breaking down this barrier impacted the lives of millions of women and their families. It changed conventional thought and allowed Texas women the freedoms that were allowed in most other states.

Ms. Raggio was inspired by her predecessors in the women's suffrage movement. She felt she was taking up the torch for all they had achieved. Her work was a continuation of other battles fought and won, but there was still much to be accomplished.

It is also notable that Ms. Raggio served as the first female assistant district attorney in Dallas County, and argued and won one of the first Texas cases to be heard in front of an all-woman jury. She was inducted to the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1985 and received the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award in 1995.

Ms. Raggio was preceded in death by her husband, Grier Raggio in 1988. She is survived by her three sons, Grier Jr., Thomas and Kenneth, and seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She will be missed, but her spirit and contributions will not be forgotten.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. XXXX, SCAAP REIMBURSEMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. XXXX, the SCAAP Reimbursement Protection Act of 2011.

When I was a new Member of Congress, local police officials came to me and explained how a change in the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program—also known as SCAAP—was having a profound impact on their budgets.

Securing our nation's borders is the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government. However, communities across the country continue to face extraordinary costs associated with incarcerating undocumented criminals at a time when they can least afford it.

The SCAAP program was established to reimburse state and local governments for these costs.

From the SCAAP's inception in 1994 until 2003, states were permitted to seek reimbursement for the costs of detaining deportable immigrants charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors.

In 2003, the Department of Justice reinterpreted the SCAAP statute in a way that caused a drastic drop in every state's reimbursement. Under this interpretation, states only receive reimbursement if a criminal alien is convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors and the arrest and conviction occur in the same fiscal year.

This may seem like a small change, but it has had large repercussions in the law enforcement community. In my state of California, SCAAP reimbursement payments have declined from \$220 million in FY2002, prior to the Department of Justice's reinterpretation, to \$112 million in FY2009.

This nearly 50 percent decline in funding greatly impairs funding of in local law enforcement efforts and makes it harder to fight crime in throughout my state.

Due to major state and county budget shortfalls, every dollar included in SCAAP reimbursement means a dollar that a State can

spend for other essential public safety services. When Congress originally developed SCAAP, we knew that, without SCAAP, state and local budgets would be overwhelmed by costs that should be the federal government's responsibility.

My legislation would modify the SCAAP statute so that states and localities can be reimbursed for the cost of incarcerating aliens who are either "charged with or convicted" of a felony or two misdemeanors regardless of the fiscal year of the incarceration and conviction—just like it was before the Department of Justice's reinterpretation in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when states struggle with tough budget choices, we be doing all we can to help them. We must restore SCAAP to reflect the meaning Congress originally intended it to have.

I urge my colleagues to join me in correcting this flawed Department of Justice interpretation and help our local police departments.

SUPPORT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced the Department of Defense and Civilian Law Enforcement Coordination Act of 2011 (H.R. 324). My bill would amend federal law to permit Department of Defense law enforcement officers to better coordinate and cooperate with civilian law enforcement agencies. I drafted this legislation in cooperation with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) because many DOD law enforcement officers in my district have informed me that they are prohibited from basic coordination and cooperation with civilian agencies near DOD facilities. We need to ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are able to work together to apprehend criminals and to prevent and solve crimes. I hope that my colleagues will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.

CHARLIE AND JUDY McNEIL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 24, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Charlie and Judy McNeil of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, for a lifetime of contributions to their local community and continued leadership in the non-profit sector. The couple was recently named Man and Woman of the Year by their local newspaper.

Charlie McNeil has an impressive professional career, as well as a distinguished track record in community service and leadership. Mr. McNeil is an engineer by trade, a graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, and received the prestigious Distinguished Achievement Medal from his alma mater. After a career managing mines and working in corporate offices, Mr. McNeil became President and CEO